



May 14, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

VIA Email: [externalaffairs@gov.ca.gov](mailto:externalaffairs@gov.ca.gov)

**Re: COVID-19 Resilience Roadmap Flexibility**

Dear Governor Newsom:

As we continue to work during these challenging times dealing with the COVID-19 crisis, Imperial County is working closely with the Cities of Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, El Centro, Holtville, Imperial and Westmorland towards the goal to reopen our local economy in a way that minimizes the risk for COVID-19 as much as possible. Although we are greatly appreciative to you and your Administration for the actions taken in response to the crisis, we are writing to respectfully urge you to provide Imperial County the flexibility to reopen additional economic sectors on achievable metrics.

Nearly two months into the statewide stay-at-home order, Imperial County has implemented an effective response through the tracking of local public health data and metrics. Now, we are looking for realistic state guidance on how to safely reopen our economy. Some of the state's "Stage 2 Readiness Criteria" released as part of California's Resilience Roadmap, such as the restriction that a county has "No COVID-19 death in the past 14 days," are not realistic standards that can be met any time soon in many counties across the state. Requirements like this one could very well ensure major parts of our economy are shut down indefinitely.

As many are experiencing throughout the State, many of our workers and business owners are struggling to make ends meet. Through our local joint efforts, the County of Imperial established a COVID-19 Recovery Group with local chambers, business representatives, and the Local Health Authority to prepare businesses to safely reopen based on public health guidance, including a Worksite-Specific Protection Plan. Our businesses are ready to thoughtfully reopen and adapt with necessary protective measures, working in a new normal, but our communities are looking for achievable criteria to be able to transition through Stage 2.

We will continue to take all steps necessary to protect public health and safety. Thank you for your consideration of our request and we look forward to helping get the economy safely back to work. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tony Rouhotas, Jr., County Executive Officer, at [tonyrouhotas@co.imperial.ca.us](mailto:tonyrouhotas@co.imperial.ca.us).

Respectfully,

  
Luis A. Plancarte, Chair  
Imperial County Board of Supervisors

  
Norma Jauregui, Mayor  
City of Brawley

  
Bill Hodge, Mayor  
City of Calexico

  
Jim Spellins, Mayor  
City of Calipatria

  
Efrain Silva, Mayor  
City of El Centro

  
James Predmore, Mayor  
City of Holtville

  
Darrell Pechtl, Mayor  
City of Imperial

  
Ana Beltran, Mayor  
City of Westmorland

cc: Senator Ben Hueso  
Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia